[Sh. Rajveer Singh]

Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government gave approval for the setting up an oil depot in the Aonla Parliamentary Constituency in 1990. However, farmers whose lands were acquired for the purpose have not been given adequate compensation so far. Apart from that, the construction work of the oil depot is yet to commence, although the Government has earmarked crores of rupees for the purpose. The setting up of this oil depot will solve the petrol/diesel shortage problem of the area. The more the delay, the escalation in the cost of construction would be more. Therefore, it is very essential to complete the project at the earliest, to meet the oil requirements of the area.

Therefore, it is my humble request to the Union Government to start the construction work of the oil depot at Aonla at the earliest.

(iv) Need to release funds to the Government of Gujarat under Agriculture and Rural Co-operative Debit Relief Scheme, 1990

[*English*]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): The Gujarat Government has introduced the Agricultural and Rural Cooperative Debt Relief Scheme, 1990 in the light of guidelines given by the Government of India. The scheme envisages sharing of the financial burden by the Central Government and the Gujarat State Government in the ratio of 50 : 50. Out of a total financial burden of Rs. 553.58 crores, the Central Government's schools of equal amount, that is, Rs. 176.79 crores. The amount to be borne by the State Government under the scheme is to be received from the Government of India as loan through NABARD.

Government of India has so far released a grant of Rs. 107.406 crores and loan of Rs. 107.406 crores through NABARD of State share. Thus, the total amount received is Rs. 214.812 crores, which has been passed on to the State Co-operative Bank and State Land Development Bank.

Now, an amount of Rs. 138.768 crores is required to be released by Government of India – half of it as grant and the remaining half as loan through NABARD. Government of India has been requested from time to time to release the amount quickly.

In these circumstances, I urge on the Central Government to release the remaining amount immediately.

(v) Need to fix uniform rate for storage of potatoes in cold storages throughout the country

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur): Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the condition of the farmers in the country is going from bad to worse. Apart from the problems caused by the recurring floods, the farmers of North Bihar are affected by the rise in the prices of agricultural inputs and the exploitation of the middlemen. This year, the potato crop in Bihar has been severely hit by frost. Their difficulties have multiplied because the cold storage owners are charging an advance payment of Rs. 15/- per quintal to reserve space for storing potatoes. This is higher than that of previous years. Along with it, the rent for keeping potatoes in the cold storage has been increased to Rs. 65/- per quintal. Therefore, keeping in mind the difficulties faced by the farmers of Bihar, the Union Government is requested to fix a uniform rate throughout the country, for keeping potato in cold storage and thereby mitigate the difficulties of the farmers and save them from economic exploitation.

(vi) Need to set up a high power T.V. transmitter in District Saharsa and Low Power Transmitter at Sepaul, Bihar

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV

(Saharasa): Sir, I would like to raise a matter pertaining to the Doordarshan relay centre located in my Parliamentary constituency of Saharsa. The transmission capacity of this relay centre is so low that the reception of programmes is not clear even in Saharasa city. I had raised this matter in this august House, earlier also, but it was of little avail. My constituency comprises of two Districts viz. Saharasa and Sapaul. If tha people of Saharasa itself do not receive these programmes, clearly, one can imagine the level of transmission in the other district. This is one of the major reasons for the backwardness of the region and there is a lot of resentment in the people as they are not able to view Doordarshan programmes.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to set up a high power transmitter at the Doordarshan relay centre in my constituency, Saharasa and also set up a low power transmitter in the newly set up district of Sapaul, to enable the people of both these districts to clearly view the programmes and thus benefit from it. Such a step would not only raise the educational standard of the people of my constituency, but also enable viewers in the neighbouring country of Nepal to watch the programmes properly. No further delay should be made in this regard.

(vii) Need to increase frequency of Calicut – Sharjah flights

[*English*]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, it is a specification that Indian Airlines have operated a new flights from Calicut airport to Sharjah with A-320 Airbus aircrafts. Now this flight is operating only three days in a week. It is reliably learnt that there is heavy booking for months in advance on this route. There is mounting public demand to operate flights from Calicut to Jeddah (Saudi Arabia), Abu Dhabi (UAE), Muscat (Oman), Doha (Qatar) besides increasing frequency of the present operation of Calicut–Sharjah flights. I would, therefore, request the Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry to direct the Indian Airlines to increase and make Calicut–Sharjah daily flight and to introduce new flights form Calicut airport to Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Jeddah, Doha, etc.

(viii) Need to allot LSHS fuel to Karnataka Electricity Board for Augmenting electricity production through diesel generation sets

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udupi): Karnataka Electricity Board has taken up a project to set up six diesel generator sets at Yalahanka near Bangalore. Each set will have a capacity producing electricity to the extent of 21.32 MW. The diesel generator sets are very essential for the power–starved Bangalore city which has many large–sized public sector undertakings in the service of the nation

The first unit, i.e., one diesel generator set is under installation and is due for commissioning by the end of March, 1992. But the unit will run only on LSHS fuel which has to be allotted by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas through Indian Oil Corporation. In spu of repeated requests from the State Government, the allotment of LSHS fuel has not yet been done by the Ministry. As the first unit is due for commissioning during this month, it is utmost urgent that LSHS fuel is allotted immediately. This will go a long way in helping a number of large and medium industries, particularly public sector undertakings, which are facing power–cuts due to shortage of power supply by Karnataka Electricity Board and will ultimately help increase the industrial production of the country.